

## **KANSAS SUPPORTED HOUSING FUND PROGRAM GUIDELINES FOR FY 2015**

### **PURPOSE**

Supported Housing Fund (SHF) program provides affordable housing linked to services for low-income, disabled and formerly homeless or potentially homeless people with Severe Persistent Mental Illness (SPMI). The goal is to provide persons with SPMI the help and support they need to stay housed and live more independent, healthy, productive, and fulfilling lives. The SHF program supports eligible individuals who are experiencing a mental illness to obtain and maintain housing in the least restrictive environment possible. This is achieved by providing temporary funds to meet the cost of their housing needs.

### **ELIGIBLE SHF PARTICIPANTS**

1. Youth who have an SED aged 18-22 as defined in the glossary; or
2. Adults who have an SPMI as defined in the glossary; and other persons who are:
  - a. At risk of requiring inpatient mental health care and treatment due to their mental illness; or
  - b. Causing or at serious risk of causing serious harm to themselves or others due to their mental illness; or
  - c. Likely to experience serious deterioration in their mental health if they do not receive community mental health treatment; or
  - d. Homeless or at risk of homelessness (precariously housed) due to their mental illness; or
  - e. At risk of being jailed due to their mental illness; or
  - f. Leaving and institution (State Psychiatric Hospital, Nursing Facilities for Mental Health, etc.)
  - g. Transitioning from one community housing arrangement to another (from Residential Care Facility to independent living, from independent living into an Residential Care Facility, etc.) and
  - i. A Medicaid recipient or persons who are working with a SSI/SSDI Outreach, Access and Recovery (SOAR) case manager to obtain SSI/SSDI; or
  - ii. Below 150% of the federal poverty level (use chart below to figure poverty level for SHF participants).

Number of Persons in the Household	Monthly 150% Poverty Level Standard
1	\$1,459
2	\$1,966
3	\$2,474
4	\$2,981
5	\$3,489
6	\$3,989
7	\$4,404
8	\$5,011

For family units of more than 8 members, add \$338 for each additional member. The poverty guidelines were published in the Federal Register published 1/22/2014.

### **ALLOWABLE EXPENDITURES INCLUDE**

- Temporary rental payment (first/last month's rent or limited rental assistance)
- Housing and utility deposits/bills
- Household items (pots, pans, linens,)
- Furniture and appliances
- Moving expenses
- Home cleaning services
- Minor home repair
- Application fees
- Personal State issued Identification
- Other expenses that allow a person to maintain or obtain housing (must obtain approval from SRS-MH Central Office)

### **NON-ALLOWABLE EXPENSES INCLUDE**

- Medication
- Dental services
- Health care
- Other services not related to housing

### **HOUSING OPTIONS USING SUPPORTED HOUSING FUNDS**

1) SHF Program's main objective is to provide funds on a temporary basis to support eligible individuals to obtain and maintain independent living. For example, SHFs could be used to pay for a housing deposit, first/last months rent or a limited rental subsidy so the person can obtain or maintain housing. Independent Living for SHF purposes uses the definition below:

The person is living independently. This includes the person living with a spouse, friends, or family and who is capable of self-care. This category includes persons who are living independently with services and support from a service provider. The person is largely independent yet may choose to live with others for reasons not related to mental illness. The reason for shared housing is a personal choice and can be related to culture considerations. Residing in this housing is not considered contingent upon participating in a specific treatment program. Who makes decisions over the person's living space and schedule might be a question that helps distinguish whether or not it is independent living.

2) SHFs may be used on a temporary basis for Supervised Housing. For example, SHFs could be used to pay rent or fees to live in this environment. Supervised Housing is defined below:

An individual is living in housing sponsored by a mental health agency and the mental health agency mandates the consumer to participate in certain mental health services in order to reside in the home or apartment. Both the sponsorship and mandate criteria must be met in order for this category to apply.

For SHF purposes, the Supervised Housing arrangement shall also meet the following criteria:

- Maximum length of stay in supervised housing is short-term (six months to a year with some exceptions made by the service provider on a case-by-case basis);
- The SHF participant may or may not be mandated to participate in certain services in order to receive funds; and
- In the supervised housing arrangement the residents enter into a lease with the housing provider and are responsible to the terms of the lease.

3) SHFs may be used on a temporary basis for Transitional Housing. SHFs could be used to pay rent or fee to live in this environment. **SHFs can not be used to pay rent or other associated housing costs for an individual residing in a KDADS-BHS funded Transitional or Interim Housing Project (Interim Housing is defined as housing up to 6 months). SHFs can be used to assist persons leaving a KDADS-BHS Transitional or Interim Housing Project in order to obtain another housing arrangement.** Transitional Housing is defined below:

Short-term housing (6-24 months) combined with case management and other supportive services to help people make the transition into permanent housing.

4) SHFs may be used on a temporary basis to assist person (s) exit homelessness, a precariously housed situation or leave or avoid a stay in an institution. SHFs can be used to cover any housing related cost that will enable an individual to leave or avoid a psychiatric hospital (public or private), Nursing Facility for Mental Health, a Regular Nursing Facility, Residential Care Facility (RCF), other group home, exit or avoid homelessness or escape a precariously housed situation. Homelessness and Precariously Housed are defined below:

- Homeless-Includes people who are living in any of the following circumstances:
  - Sleeping in a place not designed for or used as a regular sleeping accommodation, including a car, park, abandoned building, bus or train station, airport, camping ground, etc.
  - Living in a shelter designed to provide temporary living arrangements (including emergency shelter, congregate shelters, transitional housing, hotels and motels paid for by charitable organizations or by government programs)
  - Exiting an institution where they:
    - resided for  $\leq 90$  days AND
    - were residing in an emergency shelter or place not meant for human habitation immediately prior to entering the institution.
- Precariously Housed-Includes people sleeping in conventional dwelling units, other than their own, but their housing situation must have arisen from an inability to pay for own's housing, and must be of short anticipated duration (less than 60 days), and the person should have no plans or prospects for stable housing, and no financial resources to obtain housing. In rural/frontier areas, for example, this

includes persons that would be homeless if they were not living with family/friends.

5) The funds may be used on a temporary basis for persons choosing to reside in an KDADS licensed Residential Care Facility (RCF). SHFs used for this purpose can be only be used on a temporary basis (up to 1 year). RCFs are currently defined as:

Residential care facility” and “facility” mean any residence in which two or more adults with mental illness, not related to the licensee within the third degree of relationship, are residing that meets the following conditions:

- (1) Residents are provided on-site staff supervision and support; and
- (2) Residents are admitted to the residential care facility on the conditions that the housing provider or the entity providing supervision and support may enter the residents’ dwelling without the residents’ permission; and
- (3) The dwelling in which the two or more residents reside has a single United States Postal Service address.

6. SHFs can be used on a temporary basis to assist a person residing in a Kansas Department of Health and Environment licensed Boarding Home.

#### **PARTICIPANT’S SELF SUFFICIENCY EXPECTED**

Program participants, regardless of their living arrangement, must seek access to funds needed to pay for their long-term housing needs (i.e. through gainful employment, SSI/SSDI Benefits, Section VIII, HOME TBRA). Program participants must accept these other funds and willfully cease being an SHF participant when they are obtained. The SHF grantee should work in partnership with the participant to develop a plan to exit the program.